

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A method for communicating data in an interconnect system comprising a plurality of nodes, the method comprising:

issuing a command packet from a first node, the command packet comprising a respective header quadword and at least one respective data quadword for conveying a command to a second node, wherein the command is selected from a group comprising a direct memory access (DMA) command, an administrative write command, a memory copy write command, and a built in self test (BIST) command;

receiving the command packet at the second node;

issuing an acknowledgement packet from the second node, the acknowledgement packet comprising a respective header quadword for conveying an acknowledgement that the command packet has been received at the second node.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method for communicating data in ~~an interconnect~~ a data storage system, the data storage system comprising a plurality of interconnected nodes, each node having a respective cache memory comprising a plurality of cache lines, each cache line [[of]] having the same predetermined size, the method comprising:

providing new data for writing into a portion of a particular cache line in a memory region of a cache memory located at a local node, wherein data written to the memory region are mirrored to at least another memory region in at least another cache memory located at a remote node;

reading out existing data from the particular cache line [[of]] in the memory region of the cache memory located at the local node;

merging the new data with the existing data;

writing the merged data into the particular cache line ~~[[of]]~~ in the memory region of the cache memory at the local node; and

transferring the merged data over a communication link to ~~[[a]]~~ the remote node for writing into said another memory region in said another cache memory located at the remote node.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of Claim 2, wherein said transferring comprises issuing a memory copy write command over the communication link.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of Claim 2, wherein said transferring comprises issuing a command packet from the local node to the remote node over the communication link, the command packet containing the merged data.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of Claim 2, further comprising writing the merged data into a corresponding cache line of said another cache memory at the remote node.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A method for communicating data in an interconnect system comprising a plurality of nodes, each node having a respective memory, the method comprising:

calculating the parity of a local block at a local node; and

performing a direct memory access (DMA) operation to write the calculated parity to the memory of a remote node, without previously writing the calculated parity to the memory of the local node.